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Maine and Apple Sign Contract to Continue Maine Learning Technology Initiative

Apple to equip 32,000 students and 4,000 teachers with iBook notebook computers, wireless networks, training, and technical support in order to transform teaching and learning through the Maine Learning Technology Initiative.

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The Maine Department of Education has signed a four-year, \$41 million contract with Apple to continue to supply the technology, training, and support to Maine's groundbreaking initiative that has equipped all the State's 7th and 8th grade students and teachers with one-to-one access to wireless notebook computers and the Internet for the past 4 years.

The Initiative is still considered the single largest 1:1 educational technology program in the world. Maine's Education Director of Special Projects, Bette Manchester notes, "The strength of the program is that the focus is on education. This is an educational project, not a technology project."

The Maine Learning Technology Initiative has become a national and international model for 1:1 educational technology programs. Since its inception in 2002, many other U.S. states have implemented or are about to implement similar programs including Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, New Hampshire, and North Dakota. In January of 2005, Nicholas Negroponte of the MIT Media lab cited Maine's program in his announcement at the World Economic Summit of the creation of One Laptop Per Child initiative that is working to put laptops in the hands of millions of students around the world.

A more detailed summary of the terms of the contract is available on the website at <http://www.maine.gov/mlti/>.